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FEB 22 1967

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Translation Tempest

CIA Accused of Muzzling Baez

Tokyo

Japanese press reports that the Central Intelligence Agency had pressured a Japanese interpreter into mistranslating the political remarks of Joan Baez, the American pacifist folk singer, erupted in a tempest here.

The U.S. embassy issued a "categorical denial" of the allegations yesterday.

The interpreter, Ichiro Takasaki, a television producer, accompanied Miss Baez during her concert tour here which ended February 2.

REMARKS

In translating her remarks for a Japanese television audience January 27, he softened or eliminated her partisan references to Vietnam and Hiroshima, surprising many bi-lingual Japanese viewers.

Why did Takasaki do it? A popular men's weekly, Heibon Punch, launched the allegations against the CIA early last week. After Newsweek magazine came out with the story in New York Monday, the Tokyo press splashed it here.

The Asahi Evening News, citing Takasaki as its source, said the interpreter had been contacted four times in January by an American identifying himself as Harold Cooper and asking that Takasaki delete in translation any of Miss Baez' political statements. According to the

News, Takasaki feared that a refusal to cooperate with "Cooper" might jeopardize future trips to the United States, where he works two months a year. The newspaper quoted Takasaki as saying:

PRESSURE

"It is a fact that pressure was applied by a man who said he was from the CIA."

However, reached by telephone, Takasaki told the New York Times that "Cooper" had not identified himself as a CIA man.

"I assumed that was what he was," Takasaki said. "He did not tell me that himself."

However, the Associated Press reported that Takasaki said that any mistranslations were dictated by his own beliefs and not by Cooper.

HAROLD

American Embassy spokesman said there were three embassy employees here with the surname Cooper, but none of them had "Harold" as a first name.

The mistranslations which puzzled bi-lingual Japanese television viewers January 27 included the following:

• Miss Baez referred in English to Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan's two atom-bombed cities of World War II. Takasaki omitted the



ICHIRO TAKESAKI
His own convictions



JOAN BAEZ
Disappearing protests

references.

• The folk singer referred to the atomic bomb and her song "What Have They Done To The Rain?" Takasaki again omitted the reference.

• Miss Baez said she re-

fused to pay all her taxes because she did not want her money to help finance the Vietnam war. Takasaki translated: "taxes are high in the United States."

New York Times

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